
NATCA National Executive Board Teleconference
August 28, 2007

The teleconference was called to order by President Patrick Forrey and the following individuals were in attendance:

Paul Rinaldi, Executive Vice President
Rick Thompson, Alaskan Regional Vice President
Howard Blankenship, Central Regional Vice President
Phil Barbarello, Eastern Regional Vice President
Bryan Zilonis, Great Lakes Regional Vice President
Mike Robicheau, New England Regional Vice President
Scott Farrow, Northwest Mountain Regional Vice President
Mike MacDonald, Region X Regional Vice President
Victor Santore, Southern Regional Vice President
Darrell Meachum, Southwest Regional Vice President
Hamid Ghaffari, Western Pacific Regional Vice President

Also present were Adell Humphreys and Marc Shapiro.

Consolidations/Deconsolidations: Mr. Forrey reported that we are still working on the union's strategy on how best to deal with this issue. He will keep the NEB up to date on this matter. He further noted that this will be tied-into the September "mini-Lobby Week" activities.

Internet-based Schedule & Leave Bidding Program: Mr. Blankenship briefed the NEB on a software program developed by Bill Holtzman of the NATCA National Communications Committee that would permit internet-based scheduling and leave bidding. The program has been successfully field tested at several facilities, and the committee now wants to offer the program to other facilities who may wish to use it. Mr. Barbarello recommended that NATCA counsel review this program prior to its distribution to ensure that use of the program would not damage our position with the FLSA lawsuit. Mr. Blankenship agreed to forward the program to NATCA General Counsel Rita Graf and Director of Labor Relations Marc Shapiro for their review and advice. In addition, he will discuss the NEB's concerns with the Communications Committee and request that some sort of procedure be built into the program that would allow use of the program only during duty time hours.

Grievances - "White Book" vs. "Green Book": Mr. Barbarello initiated a discussion about use of language in grievances, given the discrepancies between the "Green Book" and the Agency's imposed work rules. Marc Shapiro agreed to follow up on this matter.

Houston Consolidation Workgroup Meeting: Mr. Barbarello expressed concern that meeting notes from the above-referenced meeting could be used against NATCA in the future, particularly regarding up/down facility splits. Mr. Ghaffari explained that the discussions during this meeting were purely exploratory and were intended to come up with recommendations; there were no agreements reached during the meeting. Mr. Ghaffari agreed to emphasize to the Agency that these meetings are for purposes of discussion only and do not represent any agreement or commitment on the part of the union.

ASAP Program: Mr. Zilonis has received notice from the Agency that they wish to have the new ASAP program implemented within the next 60 days. They want to start with the program as developed by NATCA and then decide what features should be changed; this would enable the Agency to claim that they're working in partnership with NATCA. It was agreed that Bobby Sturgell should contact Mr. Forrey directly and discuss this matter with him prior to the Agency making any type of announcement about working with NATCA.

Split Facility Workgroup: We will explore the creation of a workgroup with the FAA to discuss the Agency's intention to split up/down facilities.

NTSB Investigations: The Chair of NATCA's Air Safety Investigations Team has been directed to notify NATCA President Forrey prior to requesting party status with the NTSB. This will allow Mr. Forrey to evaluate whether or not it is in the union's best interests to participate in a specific investigation. Mr. Ghaffari noted that the NTSB might not allow NATCA to participate in any investigations if the union "cherry picks" those in which we wish to participate, and recommended that this be discussed further before a final decision is made. Mr. Forrey agreed, and will submit this as an agenda item for the September NEB meeting.

Overtime Bypass Arbitration: The question was raised as to whether the overtime bypass arbitration had been completed, since the FAA dismissed the arbitrator during the middle of the case. Mr. Forrey will look into this.

NATCA Technology Upgrades: Mr. Robicheau reported that his earlier estimate on the proposed upgrade to NATCA's email system was incorrect; he now estimates that the total cost will increase by \$10,000, due to redundancy that the National Communications Committee believes is necessary. He would also like to add several worthwhile programs to the grievance arbitration tracking system, at a cost of \$150,000. Mr. Rinaldi will see if this funding is available in any budget and make a report on his findings at the September NEB meeting.

Mr. Robicheau further reported that training on UnionWare has been conducted for NATCA's employees. Feedback received thus far on the program has been positive.